

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/701,548

Examiner

Yonel Beaulieu

Applicant(s)

KAGAWA ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/06/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-16.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 06 November 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 11/06/03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Yonel Beaulieu
YONEL BEAULIEU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1 – 16 are allowed.

The prior art of record fail to teach a vehicle speed control system comprising, among other limitations, map information storing means for storing map information containing node information; pass target node detecting means for detecting one or more pass target nodes on the basis of the position of the vehicle and the map information; deceleration calculating means, using a program for calculating, on the basis of the vehicle position, a stable running speed at each of the pass target nodes – so that the vehicle is decelerated by the control means reducing the vehicle current speed to the stable running speed at the pass target node; selecting a node providing a highest deceleration from the pass target nodes on the basis of the calculated deceleration, setting a maximum deceleration node to a primary deceleration target point when first deceleration control is carried out after the selection of the maximum deceleration node, selecting from the pass target nodes a deceleration end node which is far away from the maximum deceleration and at which variation of the stable running speed is inverted from reduction to increase, and setting the deceleration end node to a secondary deceleration target point when second deceleration control is carried out after the selection of the maximum deceleration node.

The prior art of record fail to further teach, in the above system, reference node angle calculating means for calculating a reference node angle corresponding to an intersecting angle between a preceding segment extension line segment and a

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reference segment on the basis of the map information – the preceding segment being defined as a segment which has as an end point a reference node out of the pass target nodes detected by the pass target node detecting means and exists at a preceding side to the reference node and the segment extension line being defined as a segment achieved by extending the preceding segment in the direction to the opposite side with respect to the reference node; and a distance calculating means for calculating, still on the basis of the map information, an inter-point distance between one of both the end points of the reference segment which is different from the reference node and one of both the end points of the reference segment which is different from the reference node when the reference segment is rotated toward the preceding-segment extension line segment around the reference node by a corrected reference node angle.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Matsumura et al. (US 6,343,253 B1), Takahashi (US 6,385,528 B1), and Mine et al. (US 6,208,927 B1) all teach related vehicle speed control system.

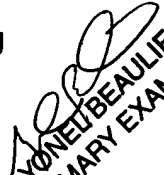
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yonel Beaulieu whose telephone number is (571) 272-6955. The examiner can normally be reached on M-W 9-3; F 9-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas BLACK can be reached on (571) 272-6956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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2005-06-08


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